

Department of Homeland Security
Western Region Conference
San Francisco
August 16-17, 2005

Eric Holdeman attended the Western Region Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Conference that was held for two days in San Francisco, CA. The following are general notes that were taken during the various sessions. Do not consider these to be complete minutes of the proceedings. The conference was attended by eight representatives from the Seattle Urban Area. Additionally, Transit, Port, Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) agencies and jurisdictions were present. The conference was designed to provide updated information from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and to exchange lessons learned and improve implementation in the future. Additionally, their goal was to encourage collaboration and the establishment of inclusive regional approaches to program development and implementation. Lastly, to generate feedback on State and Local Government Community Preparedness (SLGCP) programs. There were 17 States represented at this event.

DHS Message: Office of State and Local Government Community Preparedness (SLGCP). Stand by for a new name change for this office. They believe that much of what they are doing is “all-hazards” in its approach. They want to establish a risk based approach to funding allocations. Thirdly, they want to continue to push regional approaches to HLS. Using mutual aid and other methods to avoid duplication and build a stronger effort.

There will be a new Directorate of Preparedness that will include the U.S. Fire Administration. Another new secretary for Cyber Security will be established. They believe that FEMA will be part of the partnership in the reorganization. [Note: FEMA will not have a role in disaster preparedness under the new 2nd Stage reorganization announced by DHS].

The new National Preparedness Goal is to help define how prepared we need to be, how prepared we are, and what are the gaps? The 36 Target Capabilities will be the focus. Expanding regional collaboration will be a key component. Implementing the National Critical Infrastructure Plan (CIP), and National Incident Management System (NIMS) will be emphasized.

Information sharing between federal agencies and with state and local agencies is a priority. Interoperable communications has been the major funding expenditure to date and continues to be important.

Building a CBRNE capability is also a major effort. DHS is looking to use new technologies to help with this task. Mass casualties and dealing with them is important.

Much remains to be done in the future. More guidance is coming on how to evaluate your capabilities and define your gaps in preparedness.

National Preparedness Goal: Interim goal issued in the Spring of 2005. Benefits of National Preparedness. Focus is on measurement and filling the gaps. They are looking at “impact, likelihood, probabilities.” They are focusing on “capabilities” which they believe translates to “all-hazards.”

They are looking at it as a “national” effort, not just a “federal” effort. They want to establish measurable readiness priorities and targets that appropriately balance the potential threat.

The Goal flows out of Homeland Presidential Directive (HPD-8), also, the planning scenarios, Universal Task List, and Planning Tools. The National Preparedness Guidance (a document) that is being sun-setted. Still present is the National Preparedness Guidance and Grant Program Guidance. They are looking for a common approach to national incident management: Prevention, Protection, Response, Recovery, Preparedness.

They are harping on: it is not about me, my, I “but we.”

More clarity is needed for what a “Risk Based Approach” means.

National Planning Scenarios highlight the scope, magnitude, and complexity of plausible catastrophic terrorist attacks and disasters and other emergencies.

Universal Task List (UTL). Provides a menu of tasks from all sources that may be performed in major events. Critical tasks require coordination among multiple entities during a major event in order to minimize the impact on lives, property and economy.

Target Capabilities List (TCL): Provides guidance on specific capabilities and levels of capability that the Federal, State and Local and tribal entities will be expected to develop. There are 36 capabilities. Today the list is “response heavy.”

There is now a “Tier System” based on: total population, population density and critical infrastructure. States are to group jurisdictions based on population, population density and mutual aid considerations, DHS helps to assign the groups to standard Tiers that best match their risk

factors. [Current Washington State regional groupings are based on grant administration, not operational and risk capabilities].

Performance Measures and Objectives: Define how well tasks will be performed, address capacity and proficiency, should be assigned to each regional partner, state, federal that contributes to achieving the capability and will be applied with flexibility to allow for differences among states.

There will be “capability Classes.” Some classes will be proportional to population, some classes will be common-to-all, some classes will be Critical Infrastructure (CI)-dependent, such as presence of major agriculture or an international border.

“Intent is for regional groupings of jurisdictions to meet as many requirements as possible through mutual aid rather than through acquisition of new resources.”

After you establish your “regions”. Then you:

- Establish working Groups
- Review Goal/Guidance
- Conduct Capability Assessment
- Review National Priorities
- Conduct Needs Assessment

Beginning in FFY06 states will be required to explain in their grant applications how current and future funds will be applied to strengthen capabilities related to the National Priorities.

One change to the national priorities. Now there are eight. Law enforcement Investigation and Operations is added (?) to the previous “intelligence/information Sharing.”

Performance is assessed via:

- Exercises and operations
- Prepared After Action Reports and Improvement Plans
- Compile data from assessments
- Data will be used at all levels to set priorities and allocate resources.

DHS will prepare annual status reports on the Nation’s overall level of preparedness.

Grants are going to become more competitive in the future.

The revised National Goal is out for comment now. People are to submit their comments on www.LLIS.gov.

Mobile training teams are available to come to states to brief Governors and their key department directors. 22 States have been visited to date. Visits are being conducted through October 22, 2005.

They consider the “change process” described above to take time, and involve more than DHS at the Federal level to implement.

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[Http://www.llis.gov](http://www.llis.gov)

[Https://odp.esportals.com](https://odp.esportals.com)

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/assessments/hspd8.htm>

Integrating the National Preparedness Goal (NPG) into FFY06 Program

Guidance: Every state will have to update their HLS Strategies to reflect NPG. The idea is to provide a blueprint for comprehensive, enterprise-wide planning for homeland security efforts.

[FYI, it appears that “all-capabilities” (my term) has replaced the “all-hazard” approach.]

Capability review: Foster a multi-disciplinary discussion across all levels of government within the states.

This review is supposed to be qualitative rather than quantitative, an “intellectual Exercise.” It is to be a holistic approach to homeland security programs and capabilities.

[Stop the presses: At this very moment a DHS Staff person used the word “mitigation,” without being prompted].

Guidance is coming out in a few weeks.

The assessments are not to be like the FFY03 threat assessments. Not bunches of data. All of this is to lead towards a “program and capability enhancement plan.”

The program review will highlight the three overarching national priorities:

- Implement NIMS and NRP
- Expanded Regional Collaboration
- Implement the Interim National [Critical] Infrastructure Protection Plan

SLGCP will provide customized reports to each state based on existing data that has been provided previously to facilitate the Program and Capability Review. Reports will convey existing State data in the context of the Target Capability List.

This review will not be a strategic plan, but a Program and Capability Enhancement Plan. Focus of the (PCEP):

- Prioritize program and capability strengths and weaknesses
- Describe macro-level approach to addressing weaknesses or sustaining strengths
- Describe impact on the State if shortfalls are not addressed
- Estimate reasonable timeframes required to address needs

FFY06 Investment Justification:

- The PCEP will help States identify their needs and justify their resource requests
- The Program and Capability Review will assist States in understanding all funding streams that are available (e.g. HHS, DHS, State) and can be leveraged to build and sustain their Homeland Security Program.

UASI jurisdictions will not submit separately.

FFY06 Investment Justification:

- States will formulate an investment justification to submit with their HSGP applications
- HSGP awards will be based on both risk and need
- Investment justifications will be reviewed, scored, and prioritized along with risk factors to determine which initiatives across the nation should be funded.
- There will not be a quantifiable number/rating for this FFY06 process.

The grants that the above process will follow will be SHSP, UASI and LETPP.

Port Security, Transit HRSA, CDC are not in the mix.

Maybe (??) it will take three additional months to have a contract in place beyond what we've experienced previously.

The requirement to have a coordinated assessment with Federal Regional Department input will be difficult to accomplish. DHS admitted that they do not have a mature enough program/department/process in order to accomplish this in an efficient and effective manner for the Program and Capability Review/FFY06 funding cycle.

[Note: the FFY07 CAP is expected to be much more thorough and will require a top to bottom review of threats, capabilities and identification of gaps. It will require a major undertaking by local/regional agencies in collaboration with state and federal agencies.]

Public Education and Citizen Corps Session:

I presented at a session on what Region 6 and the Urban Area have been doing in public Education.

“In the Balance” TV Show:

There will be two TV shows broadcast on PBS. These are titled “In the Balance.” Each is one hour long, and will be shown throughout the nation. Dates targeted for the broadcast are September 12 & 19. Here in the Central Puget Sound, Channel 9 will be showing this programming in October. Dates, still need to be determined. Imagine if you will, two table top exercises with people role playing local officials, state officials and national leadership. One show is centered on a Bio attack and the other on the potential for a dirty bomb. They are well done and will prompt questions from the general media and the public.

Training and Exercise: Barbara Wisniewski Biehn, Acting Director Training Division. Ryan Winmill, Exercises, both with DHS.

Exercises: Toolkit, Multi-year plan and a Direct Support Program. Submit an application and get assistance via a Contractor. For our area the contractor would probably be EG&G. There are three Exercise Managers for the nation. They are a point of contact. Jennifer Roberson is our Washington State/DHS Exercise Manager.

Training: They are interested in quality. There is an evolution from the ODP Training Strategy to the 10 disciplines. The emergency responder guidelines that flowed from that.

Looking to train on the “Critical Tasks” first, especially those that threaten our ability to provide an effective response. The newer TCL version 1.2 is coming out soon for comment. Comments can be sent to hspd8@dhs.gov. 36 Target Capabilities that are somewhat aligned with the Emergency Support Functions (ESF). Which links to 12 priority capabilities.

They have 45 training partners who can help with training.

Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Tool kit coming that will be an A-Z how to do exercises. It is in Beta testing now/next week. There will be three pilots to follow that. It will be available in 2006. There will be

a nation-wide rollout in January (?) 2006. It can be delivered in the Central Puget Sound Region, per Ryan Winmill.

The Improvised Explosive Device (IED) that was part of the FFY05 UASI program requirement is being revised. The original requirements have been scrapped. New guidance will be forthcoming in a projected three months from ODP.

The concludes these notes.